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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/701,076	11/05/2003	Barbara Jane Wight	051481-5119	6307

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MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
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WASHINGTON, DC 20004

EXAMINER

PARRIES, DRU M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2836

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/14/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/701,076

Applicant(s)

WIGHT, BARBARA JANE

Examiner

Dru M. Parries

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 April 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see pages 7-11, filed April 2, 2007, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-13 under 35 USC 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Nakatsugawa (2002/0057689).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-7, 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wallace et al. (5,964,815), Starr (4,468,612), and Nakatsugawa (2002/0057689). Wallace teaches a control system comprising a controller (38), a wiring harness (44), and a plurality of devices (12N) connected in series via the wiring harness to the controller. Wallace also teaches sequential electrical connection of the devices to the harness to increase the closed path of detected and identified devices (via programming and the normally open switches/ports). He also teaches that non-sequential connection opens the closed path and those devices can't be detected nor identified, and the devices are substantially identical (sensors, occupant restraint devices). Wallace goes on to teach the controller identifying the plurality of devices based on their proximity to the controller (identifies the first device first; the second device second, etc.) and incrementally expands the closed path to include the controller and however many devices

have been identified. Wallace also teaches that feedback from the controller is used to recognize the plurality of devices (Col. 5, lines 50-53; Abstract; Col. 6, lines 28-37). Wallace fails to teach the wiring harness having a plurality of first and second couplings that attach each device to the harness. Starr teaches a wiring harness (171-174) with first (121-124) and second connectors (top of 111-114) that attach/detach devices to the harness. The second connectors are attached directly to electrical components. Starr also teaches the connectors being substantially identical and having at least three electrical contacts arranged in a common pattern (101-107 & 131-137). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate first and second connectors between the wiring harness and the devices so that the devices can be removed and rearranged in the series system, if necessary, thereby giving the user more freedom in constructing the system.

Wallace also fails to explicitly teach the method of programming each device upon connection. Nakatsugawa teaches a communication system between nodes in a system (i.e. between a controller and peripheral devices). He teaches a communication system, upon connection of a peripheral device, capable of programming the device instantaneously ([0007]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to implement Nakatsugawa's communication system into Wallace's invention so that the controller (38) can simultaneously begin communication with the connected device (12) and also sequentially control the other devices (12N) more quickly. Also, this allows switch (54) to close instantaneously with the connection of the peripheral device, and in turn complete an electrical connection between the controller (38) and the next first electrical coupling farther from the controller than, and adjacent to, the first electrical coupling that was just connected.

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4. Claims 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wallace et al. (5,964,815), Starr (4,468,612), Nakatsugawa (2002/0057689), Keen et al. (6,988,670), and Farag et al. (2004/0014418). Wallace, Starr and Nakatsugawa teach the control system described above. Wallace fails to teach the system being used for an HVAC system in a vehicle. Keen teaches a control system for an HVAC system in a vehicle. He teaches the HVAC system controlling the airflow and temperature in a vehicle via substantially identical actuators (Abstract). Keen is silent on where the airflow is being directed. Farag teaches an HVAC system in a vehicle that directs airflow to the footwell, interior vents, and windshield defroster ([0005]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate Wallace's control system into an HVAC system for a vehicle so the different HVAC modules can be replaced and repaired easily and it's an efficient control system that would make any system work better (i.e. an HVAC system).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dru M. Parries whose telephone number is (571) 272-8542. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday from 9:00am to 6:00pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Sherry, can be reached on 571-272-2800 x 36. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be

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obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DMP

6-5-2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS', followed by the date '6/19/07' written in a similar cursive style.

MICHAEL SHERRY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800